

What is claimed is:

1. A method of supplying a media web to a wallpaper printer, comprising the steps of:

opening a reusable case;

5 placing into the case a core onto which has been located a supply roll of blank wallpaper media;

supporting the core for rotation within the case;

leading a free edge of the roll between a pair of rollers and past an edge of the open case; then

with the rollers located within the case and on either side of the web, closing the case and loading it into a  
printer.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

introducing the two rollers into a pair of resilient bias devices that holds the rollers in proximity.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

15 locating an opening of each resilient bias device around the core before closing the case.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

one roller is a driven roller having at one end a coupling, and locating the coupling in an opening of the case  
which allows an external spindle to access the coupling when the case is closed.

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5. The method of claim 2, wherein:

each roller has a circumferential slot at each end;

each bias device having two extensions which engage the slots of both rollers at one end.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein:

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the two extensions of each bias device are joined to a flat clip body, the body having a central opening for  
receiving and locating the core.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

each body has an anti-rotation feature which is adapted to engage with a cooperating feature located at each end of the core, so to prevent the core from rotating in the case; and further comprising the step of engaging the anti-rotation feature with the cooperating feature before the case is closed.

- 5 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the case has at one or both ends, slots for receiving the bodies, and further comprising the step of:

locating one or both bodies in a respective slot before the case is closed.

9. The method of claim 1, loading the printer further comprises:

- 10 lifting the case by an integral handle formed at one end of the case.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

using a folding handle located on a top surface of the case.

- 15 11. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the case has two halves which are hinged together and define when closed, a slot which extends between the halves through which the free edge of the roll exits the case.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein closing the case further comprises:

- 20 using resilient clips which engage the case halves and hold them in a closed position.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the rollers are brought into proximity and biased against one another before the case is closed.

- 25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein:

both rollers are located with respect to the core before the case is closed.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the case is formed from two case halves manufactured from a single moulding with an integral hinge.

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16. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the rollers are both removable and one case half has formed in it a journal in which a roller is supported before the case is closed.

5 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

re-using the case by opening it, removing the core and the rollers, introducing a new core with a new roll around it; and

leading a free edge of the new roll between a pair of rollers and past an edge of the open case; then closing the case with the rollers located in it and loading it again into a printer.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein:

the roll and the new roll are of different blank media types.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein:

15 the printer is self threading.

20. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead such that the web of media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.02 square meters per second (775 square feet per hour).

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21. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead such that the web of media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.1 square meters per second (3875 square feet per hour).

25 22. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead such that the web of media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.2 square meters per second (7750 square feet per hour).

30 23. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead has more than 7680 nozzles.

24. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead has more than 20,000 nozzles
- 5 25. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead has more than 100,000 nozzles.
26. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead has more than 250,000 nozzles.
- 10 27. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 5 picoliters.
28. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 3 picoliters.
- 15 29. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a full width digital color printhead and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 1.5 picoliters.
- 20 30. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer is a self contained printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:  
a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media cartridge loading area to a winding area;  
a full width digital color printhead located in the media path;  
25 a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and  
the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer.
31. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein utilizing an on-demand printer further comprises:  
30 loading a media cartridge into the printer, the media cartridge, comprising:

a case in which a roll of blank media may be deployed;

the case having two halves, hinged together, an area between the two halves, when closed, defining a media supply slot; and

the case having internally and adjacent to the slot, a pair of rollers, at least one of the rollers being a driven  
5 roller which is supported at each end, by the case, for rotation by an external motor.

32. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a consumer tote for carrying the roll of wallpaper, the tote comprising:

a disposable exterior in which is formed a main access flap and a pair of core access openings; and  
10 the tote having an interior in which is located a disposable core which is aligned with the access openings.

33. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a transverse cutter, the transverse cutter comprising:

a chassis having end plates;  
15 the end plates being separated to allow a web of media to pass between them;  
the end plates supporting between them a cutting blade; and  
the blade supported at each end to perform a cutting motion which begins on one side of the web and finishes on an opposite side of the web.

20 34. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a slitting mechanism, the slitting mechanism comprising:

a chassis having end plates;  
the end plates being separated by a transverse portion of the chassis to allow a web of media to pass between them;  
25 one or more rotating slitting shafts extending between the end plates, each shaft having one or more slitters arranged along its length, each slitter having a cutting edge; and  
the slitting mechanism selectively engageable to either enter or not enter a path followed by the web according to an input provided by an operator of the printer.

30 35. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a dryer, the dryer comprising:

a compartment with a top opening for receiving a media web fed from the printer;  
 a source of heated air located above the top opening for blowing heated air into the opening to dry printing on the media web.

5 36. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer comprises:

a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a winding area;

a printhead located in the media path;

a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and

10 the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer wherein,

the length and design of the roll are determined by the operator inputs.

37. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

15 utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a winding area, there being a printhead located in the media path, a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices;

using one or more input devices which communicate with the processor to capture data from an operator regarding a specification for an operator's requirements;

20 using the processor to operatively control the printer according to the data; and  
 printing a single roll of wallpaper, on demand, according to a selected pattern.

38. A method as claimed in claim 1 adapted for operating a wallpaper printing business, the method further comprising the steps of:

25 utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a printhead and from the printhead to a dispensing slot;

using one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to capture data regarding one or more customer's requirements;

the data comprising at least a customer selected pattern;

30 printing a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern; and

charging a customer for the roll.

39. A method as claimed in claim 1 adapted for operating a wallpaper printing franchise, the method further comprising the steps of:

- 5 providing to franchisees, an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a printhead and from the printhead to a dispensing slot;  
the printer having one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to capture data regarding one or more customer requirements, the data comprising at least a customer selected pattern;  
providing the franchisee with a collection of patterns in a digital storage medium that can be read by the  
10 printer;  
enabling the franchisee to print a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern; and  
obtaining or attempting to obtain a fee from the franchisee.

- 15 40. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer adapted to produce rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:  
a frame in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a winding area;  
a printhead located across the media path;  
one or more input devices for capturing operator instructions;  
20 a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and  
the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer.

- 25 41. A method as claimed in claim 1 adapted for printing wallpaper onto a web of media, the method further comprising the steps of:  
utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path, there being a full width printhead located across the media path, there being a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices and which controls the printer;  
using one or more input devices which communicate with the processor to capture data from an operator  
30 regarding a specification;

running the printer according to the data;  
 printing a single roll of wallpaper, on demand, according to a selected pattern and configuration;  
 changing the pattern according to a new datum from an operator; and  
 then printing a new roll onto the same web.

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42. A method as claimed in claim 1 adapted for drying a moving web of media in a printer such as a wallpaper printer, the method further comprising the steps of:

loading the web in a path that traverses a compartment in a dryer within the printer, the compartment having an opening across the top;

10 allowing the moving web to descend into the compartment, as required; and  
 blowing heated air from above the opening.

43. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer has a printhead assembly which prints onto a moving web that follows a path, the printer comprising:

15 a full width printhead located across the path;  
 the printhead comprising a color printhead which is at least as wide as the web;  
 the printhead being supplied with a number of different inks which are remote from the printhead and which supply the printhead through tubes.

20 44. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer is adapted to produce rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:

a housing in which is located a media path which extends from a blank media intake to a wallpaper exit slot;  
 a multi-color roll width removable printhead located in the housing and across the media path;

the printhead being supplied by separate ink reservoirs, the reservoirs connected to the printhead by an ink  
 25 supply harness, there being a disconnect coupling between the reservoirs and the printhead;

one or more input devices for capturing operator instructions;

a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll.



45. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a consumer tote for carrying the roll of wallpaper, the tote comprising:

a disposable exterior in which is formed a main access flap and a pair of core access openings;

the tote having an interior in which is located a disposable core which is aligned with the access openings;

5 both openings exposing a moulded coupling, one coupling attached to each end of the core, at least one of the couplings being a driven coupling and adapted to engage a driving spindle that rotates the core.

46. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer is adapted to print onto a moving web, the printer comprising:

10 a full width stationary printhead located on a rail along which it slides for service and removal;

a number of replaceable ink reservoirs which supply the printhead with different inks;

the printhead comprising a color printhead which is at least as wide as the web; and

the printhead being supplied with the different inks through tubes which can be disconnected so the printhead may be removed.

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47. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the printer is a self threading printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:

a media loading area adapted to support a media cartridge in a position so that a media supply slot of the cartridge is closely adjacent to a pilot guide;

20 a cabinet housing a media path which extends from the pilot guide to a printed media dispensing slot;

a printhead located across the media path;

a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll;

a motor within the cabinet for advancing a media web out of the media cartridge; and

25 one or more other motors adapted to urge the media along the path and out of the slot.

48. A method as claimed in claim 1 adapted for producing wallpaper on-demand, the method further comprising the steps of:

utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which passes a printhead

30 on the way to a dispensing slot;

selecting a pattern and a configuration;

using one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to input the pattern and the configuration; and

printing a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern and

5 configuration.